

In addition to the state championship, the New Oxford Marching Colonials also earned special awards for High Music, High Visual, High Percussion, and High Colorguard. The band also competed in the V-USBands National Championship, in which the students placed fourth and received a special award for Best Colorguard.

I congratulate the dedicated members of the New Oxford Marching Colonials, their instructors, and families on this remarkable achievement, and I wish the students every continued success.

RECOGNIZING JOHN DIAZ

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 2021

Mr. SWALWELL. Madam Speaker, along with Speaker of the House NANCY PELOSI and Representatives MARK DESAULNIER, ANNA G. ESHOO, JARED HUFFMAN, RO KHANNA, BARBARA LEE, ZOE LOFGREN, JERRY MCNERNEY, JACKIE SPEIER, and MIKE THOMPSON, I rise to recognize California journalist John Diaz on the occasion of his retirement from the San Francisco Chronicle.

John's superb stewardship of the Chronicle's editorial pages over the past 25 years has kept California readers talking and thinking about the most pressing issues facing the state. His own columns, exploring complex issues in ways that laypeople can easily understand and engage, have been a big part of that.

John, a graduate of California's Humboldt State University, started his career at the Red Bluff (CA) Daily News, where after two years he was promoted to the parent company's Washington, D.C. bureau. He later reported for the Associated Press in Philadelphia and reported and edited for the Denver Post before starting at the Chronicle in 1990 as an assistant city editor and becoming its editorial page editor in 1996.

Both in maintaining the Chronicle's editorial voice and in expressing his own opinions and analysis through his column, John unflinchingly has delved into tough issues without resorting either to oversimplification or to meanness. His balanced presentation of facts is a credit to the Chronicle and to journalism at large, and a boon to his readers.

The Bay Area political landscape has changed enormously on his watch, as has the region's media landscape. Through it all, John has kept our communities well-informed and a well-informed populace is a necessary part of our democratic republic.

We thank John for his many years of service to our constituents, and we wish him the best in his next endeavors.

ST. DAVID'S DAY

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 2021

Mr. GRIFFITH. Madam Speaker, I rise to note the upcoming celebration of St. David's Day on March 1. The feast day of St. David,

the patron saint of Wales, offers the opportunity to honor Welsh culture and heritage and note the links between Wales and the United States.

The Welsh were among the early settlers who emigrated from the British Isles to North America, and they came with the same motivations that brought many generations from all over the world to our shores, including the pursuit of religious liberty and the opportunity to create a better life for themselves and their descendants. The man remembered as the first Welsh settler, Howell Powell, arrived in Virginia from Brecon in 1642. After William Penn founded Pennsylvania in 1681, having considered naming it New Wales, a large group of Welsh Quakers settled in the colony.

A century later, the Industrial Revolution brought a renewed wave of Welsh settlement to the United States. Immigrants from Wales farmed land, mined coal, made steel, and worked in a variety of other industries that powered U.S. economic ascendancy.

We see the contributions of Wales to American history and culture in other ways, too. At least five signers of the Declaration of Independence had a Welsh background, including its primary author Thomas Jefferson. At least eight of our presidents have similarly come from Welsh descent.

The ties between Wales and the United States are not merely historic but remain vibrant today. Welsh companies conduct business in the United States and keep Americans on their payrolls. As of 2019, the United States was the largest export market for Wales outside Europe.

In the House of Representatives, I serve as Chairman of the Congressional Friends of Wales Caucus, devoted to celebrating and strengthening the ties between our two nations. Each year I look forward to our St. David's Day reception on Capitol Hill, attended by members of the Welsh community in the United States, leading officials in the Welsh government, and Members of Congress. Unfortunately, the reception will not go on as usual this year, but I will nevertheless be wearing a daffodil on March 1 to mark the holiday.

The last words of St. David were said to be, "Be joyful, keep the faith, and do the little things that you have heard and seen me do." People of Welsh heritage have come to embody this message in their contributions to the United States and have not done only little things but great things as well. On this St. David's Day, as one of the millions of Americans with Welsh ancestry, I take pride in the accomplishments produced by the partnership between Wales and the United States and look forward to those to come.

NEW DEAL FOR NEW AMERICANS ACT

HON. GRACE MENG

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 2021

Ms. MENG. Madam Speaker, immigrants are an essential part of our nation. And our nation can only be made stronger if we assist the efforts of new Americans to integrate, contribute to the growth of our economy, and be civically engaged.

The United States is the nation that it is today because of immigrant contributions. In fact, I am proud to represent one of the most diverse congressional districts in the country, in Queens, New York; it is a place where immigrant communities have thrived for decades and decades.

Madam Speaker, I am a proud daughter of immigrants. I know firsthand the difficulties my parents and grandparents encountered when they immigrated to the United States for a better life for their children. This is not an uncommon story. While the levels of hardships of new immigrants vary, there are common challenges—from language barriers to finding work.

That is why, I am so proud to reintroduce the "New Deal for New Americans Act". I am honored and grateful to lead this bill with Senators MARKEY and HIRONO and Representatives JAYAPAL and GARCÍA. The New Deal for New Americans Act would ensure a more inclusive and welcoming immigration system to help new Americans achieve their American Dream. Among many provisions, this bill would help immigrants overcome common challenges such as language barriers and employment attainment, and help start a business and break down barriers to naturalization.

Specifically, the "New Deal for New Americans Act" would:

Establish a National Office of New Americans in the Executive Office of the White House to promote and support immigrant and refugee integration and inclusion and coordinate efforts of federal, state, and local governments to support social, economic, and civic integration of immigrants and refugees.

Establish a Federal Initiative on New Americans to coordinate federal response to address issues that affect the lives of new immigrants and refugees and communities with growing immigrant and refugee populations.

Create a Legal Services and Immigration Assistance Grant Program to support organizations that provide direct immigration assistance to those in need of immigration screening; know-your-rights education; assistance in applying for citizenship, lawful permanent resident status or other legal status (DACA, TPS, asylum, etc.); or seeking relief from a removal order.

Create an English as a Gateway to Integration Program for organizations that teach English or help individuals prepare for naturalization or earn a GED.

Create a Workforce Development Grant Program to ensure that immigrant and refugee adults have equitable access to education and workforce programs that help equip them with occupational skills needed to secure or advance in employment.

Reduce barriers for individuals to naturalize by establishing a flat application fee for naturalization, amending the English and civics exam requirements for older individuals, and exempting eligible U.S. high school graduates from taking the naturalization exams.

Limit USCIS's ability to raise fees without Congress' approval, plus require authorization of appropriations to cover USCIS' need to operate and adjudicate cases.

Promote civic engagement through automatic voter registration of newly naturalized individuals.

Expand family integration by reducing the age of citizens who are able to petition eligible family members from 21 years old to 18 years old.

Increase Refugee Admissions level to 125,000 per fiscal year.

Provide social, economic, and civic support to refugees and rebuild the capacity and infrastructure of local communities to welcome refugees.

Amend the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) to no longer allow deportation of an individual deemed to have become a public charge.

Madam Speaker, the rich tapestry of our nation that is comprised of diverse cultures, languages, and experiences have always been America's strength—and that is why improving our system to welcome new Americans will ensure our nation continues to thrive. This bicameral legislation is a down payment for future generations to succeed in the United States. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and join me in moving our diverse nation forward by helping new Americans.

IN RECOGNITION OF MIKE
TEDESCO

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 2021

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate Mike Tedesco on his new role as President and CEO of Vision Together 2025 in Johnstown, Pennsylvania.

Vision Together 2025 is a volunteer-based organization that works to improve life in the Greater Johnstown region by laying a groundwork for better educational and economic opportunities. Vision Together 2025 already is making great strides in its mission, and I am confident that Mike will continue this work for the community.

Mike holds a degree from the University of Idaho and a master's degree in Urban & Regional Planning from the University of Kansas. An expert in urban planning, Mike was most recently the Executive Director of the Spokane Tribe of Indians in Spokane, Washington. He also previously served as Executive Director of the Pueblo Urban Renewal Authority.

On behalf of Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District, it is my privilege to welcome Mike Tedesco to Johnstown and wish him success in his new role.

HONORING THE LIFE OF W.
EUGENE BURRELL

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 2021

Mr. BABIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a community leader and friend, W. Eugene Burrell of Fannett, Texas, who passed away on Wednesday, December 30, 2020, at the age of 86. Eugene was a lifelong cattle rancher, rice farmer, and civic leader in Southeast Texas. He had the respect of all who knew him.

Eugene was born on October 27, 1934, in Beaumont, Texas, to Louise DeVillier Burrell and Walter Jordan Burrell. He began farming rice at the age of 18 and worked in that role until the age of 21, when he decided to serve

his country in the United States Army. After serving in the Army from 1955 to 1957, where he was stationed overseas in Germany, Eugene returned home and continued rice farming—an occupation that would unknowingly last for 52 years. Apart from growing rice, he was also a dedicated cattle rancher for more than 70 years. Eugene served as a board member on numerous industry and community boards, such as: the American Rice Incorporate Board in Houston, the American Rice Growers Board in Cheek, Texas, the Coastal Cattlemen's Association Board, the Equalization Board for the Jefferson County Appraisal District, the West Jefferson Municipal Water District, and the Texas Rice Festival, where he volunteered with his wife, Sandra. In 1999, Eugene was named the Texas Rice Festival Farmer of the Year and subsequently its Pioneer Farmer of the Year in 2017. His steadfast faith was always important to him. In fact, he served as a member of St. Mary's Fannett Knights of Columbus organization.

In addition to "Eugene," his friends and family lovingly referred to him as "Dad," "Pawpaw," "Boogie," and "Fred". Supporting his children, and later his grandchildren, by attending their sporting events and various competitions over the years was always a top priority to him. Eugene is survived by his wife of 63 years, Sandra Ray Burrell; daughters, Karen Burrell Reneau and her husband, Charlie, and Kelly Burrell Alton and her husband, Randy; son, Troy Eugene Burrell and his wife, Shelly; grandchildren, Landon Reneau and his wife, Hillary, William Reneau and his wife, Amanda, Lane Stuart, Reid Alton, Mary Alton, Abby Alton, Cody Burrell, and Cameron Burrell and his wife, Lauren; great-grandchildren, Eli Reneau, Ella Reneau, and Bryar Burrell and numerous nieces and nephews. He is preceded in death by his parents, Louise and Walter Burrell, and brother, James "Jack" Burrell.

Madam Speaker, I would like to honor my friend W. Eugene Burrell for his many years of faithful service to his community. My thoughts and prayers remain with his family and friends during this difficult time.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
AND SERVICE OF CAPT. (RET)
JAMES MICHAEL KUZMA

HON. BILL POSEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 2021

Mr. POSEY. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart and solemn remembrance that I rise to pay tribute to a great man and my longtime friend, Capt. (Ret) James Michael Kuzma. Jim passed away unexpectedly on Friday, February 5, 2021, just three days shy of his 60th birthday.

Jim was born February 8, 1961 in Steubenville, Ohio. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering from the U.S. Naval Academy, a Master of Science in Engineering Management from the Catholic University of America, and a Master of Science in National Resource Strategy from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces (ICAF).

Jim served 28 years with the U.S. Navy before "retiring" to Cocoa Beach in 2011. I say

"retiring" in quotations because anyone who knew Jim knew that it was nearly unthinkable for him to rest. He was always thinking of creative ways to solve challenges. For the last decade, Jim served as Space Florida's Senior Vice President and General Manager of the Cape Canaveral Spaceport, working to cement the state's position as a world leader in aerospace.

Recruited to Space Florida to strengthen and grow its operational support for the commercial space industry at Cape Canaveral Spaceport, Jim embraced the mission and excelled at finding ways to respond to industry's needs. He led efforts to secure Federal Aviation Administration spaceport operating licenses for both the former Shuttle Landing Facility (SLF) and other former Government sites on Cape Canaveral Air Force Station. Jim spearheaded the transfer of the SLF to Space Florida's management and operation, and he was instrumental in attracting Blue Origin to base its orbital program in Florida. For the past two years, he worked tirelessly to ensure a solution for replacing NASA's 1964 Indian River Bridge that would meet the spaceport's needs far into the future. These were only a few examples Jim's accomplishments to further America's space program in positive ways.

Jim visited my office frequently in Washington, advocating for the commercial space industry, offering creative solutions to problems, and urging needed regulatory reform to ensure America's leadership in space. He served on the Board of the Commercial Spaceflight Federation, and more recently on the CSF Executive Committee.

Jim began his Naval service on the USS *Jacksonville SSN 699*. He went on to Naval Sea Systems Command, serving during 1988 through 90 as a Fleet Liaison and Systems Test Director for various submarine Combat and Weapons System Program Offices. He served as Engineering Officer on the USS *Newport News SSN 750* from 1991 to 1994. In 1994, he was assigned to the Commander in Chief, U.S. Atlantic Fleet (CINCLANTFLT) Nuclear Propulsion Examining Board. He served as the Executive Officer on USS *Atlanta SSN 712* from October 1996 to July 1998 before reporting to Submarine Warfare Division of the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations (OPNAV) staffer where he served as Submarine Combat Systems Requirements Officer. Following that, he served as the Commanding Officer of the USS *Boise 764* from March 2001 until October 2003. He then became Deputy Director for Operations on the staff of the Commander, Naval Submarine Forces from 2003 to 2005. From October 2005 to August 2007, Captain Kuzma served as Special Activities Division Chief on Strategic Command's Joint Functional Component Command for Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance staff before attending the Industrial College of the Armed Forces (ICAF) from August 2007 to June 2008. He rounded off his impressive Naval career as the Commanding Officer of the Naval Ordnance Test Unit in Cape Canaveral (2008–2011).

Captain Kuzma's personal decorations include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, two Meritorious Service Medals, six Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals and four Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals. Yet, he never spoke about them. Jim was indeed